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said metal having been deposited on said channel surface from a plasma,  
wherein said thermal barrier assembly comprises at least a portion of a  
casing.

27.(Amended) A process for making a thermal barrier assembly, said process  
comprising:

exposing a surface of a channel of a thermal barrier assembly to a plasma  
comprising metal moieties; and  
depositing said metal moieties on the surface of said channel,  
wherein said thermal barrier assembly comprises at least a portion of a  
casing.

25.(Amended) A window casing comprising the thermal barrier assembly of claim  
38 [15].

26.(Amended) A door casing comprising the thermal barrier assembly of claim 38  
[15].

Please add the following new claims.

38.(New) A thermal barrier assembly comprising:  
a channel comprising a layer of metal bonded to a surface of said  
channel, said metal having been deposited onto said channel surface from  
a plasma; and  
an adhesive composition bonded to the modified surface of said  
channel, said adhesive composition comprising polyurethane.

103 39.(New) A thermal barrier assembly comprising:  
153 130  
a channel comprising a layer of metal bonded to a surface of said channel,  
said metal having been deposited onto said channel surface from a plasma; and

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<sup>170</sup>  
an adhesive composition bonded to the modified surface of said channel,  
said adhesive composition exhibiting no greater than 5 % <sup>Design</sup> shrinkage when bonded  
to said surface and subjected to the % Shrinkage Test Method.

<sup>103</sup>  
40.(New) The thermal barrier assembly of claim 39, wherein said adhesive  
composition exhibits no greater than 1 % shrinkage <sup>Design</sup> when bonded to said surface and  
subjected to the % Shrinkage Test Method.

<sup>103</sup>  
41.(New) A thermal barrier assembly comprising:  
a channel;  
a layer of metal bonded to a surface of said channel, said metal layer  
having been deposited onto said channel surface from a plasma; and  
an adhesive composition bonded to the modified surface of said channel,  
said adhesive composition exhibiting a shear strength of at least 2500 psi shear  
strength at room temperature after being subjected to the Thermal Cycling  
Method.

<sup>103</sup>  
42.(New) The thermal barrier assembly of claim 41, wherein said adhesive  
composition exhibits a shear strength of at least 3000 psi at room temperature after being  
subjected to the Thermal Cycling Method.

<sup>103</sup>  
43.(New) The thermal barrier assembly of claim 41, wherein said adhesive  
composition exhibits a shear strength of at least 7500 psi at room temperature after being  
subjected to the Thermal Cycling Method.

X  
44.(New) A process for making a thermal barrier assembly, said process  
comprising:

providing a thermal barrier assembly comprising a channel, and a  
surface treatment disposed on a surface of said channel;  
exposing said treated surface of said channel to a plasma  
comprising metal moieties;

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removing at least a portion of said surface treatment; and  
depositing said metal moieties on the surface of said channel.

X 45.(New) The process of claim 44, wherein said surface treatment is selected from the group consisting of polyester, melamine, mill finish, conversion coating, primer, paint, acrylic, polyester, enamel, polyurethane, fluoropolymer, anodic finishes and combinations thereof.

X 46.(New) A process for making a thermal barrier assembly, said process comprising:

exposing a surface of a channel of a thermal barrier assembly to a plasma comprising metal moieties;  
depositing said metal moieties on the surface of said channel; and  
contacting the metal surface of said channel with an adhesive composition comprising polyurethane.

X 47.(New) A casing comprising the thermal barrier assembly of claim 13.

X 48.(New) The method of claim 1, wherein said thermal barrier assembly comprises a unitary structure.

102  
49.(New) A thermal barrier assembly comprising:  
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a first structural component;  
a second structural component;  
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a channel disposed between said first structural component and said second structural component,  
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a layer of metal bonded to a surface of said channel, said metal having been deposited on said channel surface from a plasma; and  
120  
an adhesive composition disposed in said channel,  
said first structural component being bonded to said second structural component through said adhesive composition.

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+ 50.(New) The method of claim 1, wherein said channel comprises a surface treatment disposed on said channel prior to exposing said channel surface to said plasma.

102 51.(New) A casing comprising a thermal barrier comprising:  
a thermal barrier assembly comprising  
a channel, and  
a layer of metal bonded to a surface of said channel, said metal layer having been deposited onto said channel surface from a plasma; and  
an adhesive composition bonded to the modified surface of said channel.

X 52.(New) A window casing, door casing, or curtain wall casing comprising the casing of claim 51.

#### Remarks

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for extending his attorney, Allison Johnson, the courtesy of a teleconference interview on October 29, 2002. During the teleconference the Examiner indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement and Form 1449 were acceptable as submitted and agreed to indicate her review of the references cited therein by initialing the Form 1449 and returning the initialed Form 1449 to Applicant at the correspondence address of record. The Examiner also agreed that claims 25 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 4, 13 and 25-27 have been amended. New claims 38-52 have been added. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 4, 13, and 27 and new claims 38-52 can be found in general throughout Applicant's Specification and in particular, for example, as follows: claims 1, 13, and 27, page 7, lines 5-6 and Figs. 1-3; claims 38-43, original claims 15-20; claim 44, original claim 29; original claim 31, claim 45, original claim 32; claim 46, original claims 28 and 31; claims 47, page 7, lines 5-6; claim 48, page 8, lines 17-26 and Figs. 1-3; claim 49, page 8, lines 17-26; claim 50, page 6, line 28-page 7, line 4; claims 51 and 52, page 2, lines 24-25 and page 7, lines 5-6.